

## NEW PARLEY MAY RISE ON RUINS OF OLD

(Continued from Page One.)

employers' group, though Judge Gary himself very tactfully saved the public group any embarrassment by refraining from attendance or voting when a proposition on which the entire group seemed agreed was to be put before the whole conference. Also with the employers' and employees' representatives now outside the conference, it is deemed desirable to make selections which will surely include all the varying viewpoints on the relation of capital and labor and yet maintain a personnel that knows how to bring about a compromise.

**Permits Greater Freedom.** Unquestionably the new commission will take advantage of the continued presence in Washington of the leading members of the employers' and employees' groups to obtain advice or judgment as to various principles of the labor group and the personal relations already established through the conference itself will stand the new public group in good stead, making possible informal conferences and talks wherein the individuals representing capital and labor can talk freely and make more valuable suggestions than they could on the floor of a conference managed by parliamentary rules and recorded in every detail by stenographers and the press.

**Many Mistakes Made.** Looking back over the events of the last two weeks, many mistakes were made in the industrial peace conference on both sides. Really it was a big tragedy. Argument was not as impassioned as it may now seem to have been through the days of the conference. When it is considered, for instance, that by the bare majority of one or two the employers' group decided to vote as a unit against the Gompers resolution declaring that wage earners had a right to organize without discrimination, the proximity of the whole conference to an understanding on that first principle can be seen. The passing of the first obstacle would have meant the passing of a crisis and the beginning of a new era in the industrial peace conference itself. But labor was impatient and tactless. Capital on its part was tactless, because it failed really to tell the conference privately, inside its group and just what was holding back assent to the Gompers principle.

**Should Have Talked Sooner.** For instance, if the employers' group had said in the conference what so many of its members said afterwards privately, that an understanding would not have dissolved. Practically all the employers said they had no objection to the Gompers resolution if it could have been further defined. Had they announced at a conference, they approved the principle with certain understandings and definitions as to its mode of application, the responsibility for denying those understandings and definitions would have been clearly upon the labor group.

The employers, on the other hand, argue that it was not necessary to go further, because union labor showed its hand.

**One Question Unanswered.** One of the questions which Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, did not answer in the conference, and has not answered yet, is that which L. F. Lorne of the employers' group asked him and which Paul L. Felix of the public group pressed upon Mr. Gompers was this: "Mr. Lorne: I want to read from the proceedings of the American Federation of Labor, held at Atlantic City, N. J., in 1918, page 362 and 363, resolution No. 201. It starts out with this proposition: 'Whereas, many steel corporations and other industrial institutions have insisted in their contracts with labor that they were bargaining, akin to the Rockefeller plan, and ends up with two resolutions. 'Resolved, that we disapprove and condemn all such combinations and all such membership in the public group until this right is conceded us.' Now, we are not going to be led into the adoption of any resolution of this kind, that does not set out plainly on its face all the circumstances under which collective bargaining can be conducted."

**Puts Question to Gompers.** To this Mr. Gompers made no answer, so later on Mr. Felix of the public group pursued the inquiry thus: "That should like to ask Mr. Gompers for the clarification of my own mind, if I may, this question, because I am very much puzzled by the resolution. I would like to ask Mr. Gompers to reconcile what, in my mind, are diverse statements. We asked you yesterday, Mr. Gompers, in the group meeting whether the resolution you then stood for presented in your mind or permitted instead or affected the formation of so-called shop unions, and the question of the 12 points of the steel workers' demands came up, and you said then, as you, I believe, later said publicly here, that you do not deny the right to organize in that fashion, or that you did not recall up to that time that right had been before been challenged, or that there had been on the part of the American Federation of Labor a question of that right involved."

**Opposes "Shop Organizations."** Mr. Gompers did not reconcile the two statements but simply said that the American Federation of Labor was going "to keep the right of persuading and arguing in man fashion, that these shop organizations shall be a thing of the past and that the bona fide organization of men and women in labor shall take their places, where men

### Selling Prices

in Rock Island.

The prices below are the prices at which the retail merchant sells to consumers, taking account of the quality of the product.	
Live Poultry.	
Hens	24c
Summer	26c
Broilers	26c
Ducks	28c
Geese	28c
Dressed Poultry.	
Chickens, springs	36c
Hens	35c
Broilers	35c
Ducks	36c
Geese	36c
Eggs	28c
Eggs	54